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DIRECTOR

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RIVER PLATE HANDBOOK

FOR 1899.

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guarantee of good faith.

The Standard.

"Nil falsi audiam, nil veri non audiam dicere."

Cicero.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1898.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM

FOR "STANDARD."

Montevideo, Oct. 24, 6 p.m.

A better feeling in the market to-day.

Little doing.

Strong wind blowing, and very

dusty.

REVIEW FOR EUROPE.

DURING the past fortnight many

events of interest have occurred.

The Allies have at last commenced

move, and are adopting the same

tactics as at Humaita. Gen. Argollo,

with about 3,000 Brazilians, has

crossed the river Paraguay, and en-

camped in the Gran Chaco, where he

awaits the arrival of Gen. Rivas, with

about seven thousand men, previous

to marching direct on Asuncion. This

flank movement of the Allies, it is

thought, will turn Lopez's position

at Villota and force him to fall back

on Piribebuy, a mountainous district of

Paraguay. Meanwhile it is the inten-

tion of the Allied Commander-in-Chief,

Marques Caxias, upon the occupation

of Asuncion, to establish his head-

quarters there, and to rest his men for

munitions to the foreign office, his

presence in Paraguay at the moment

might be anything but desirable, and

might possibly lead to complications

similar to those between Mr. Wash-

burn and the Paraguayan Government.

The conduct of Mr. Gould in avoiding

the possibility of such a recurrence,

merits praise, and will doubtless be

duly appreciated in the proper quar-

ter. President Sarmiento has entered

upon a new line of policy which se-

cures for him immense popularity

amongst those who have the welfare

of the country at heart. His first act

has been to despatch his Prime Minister

to Entre Rios to confer with Gen. Ur-

quiza as to the best means to adopt

for bringing the war to a conclusion.

Dr. Sarsfield, the Minister in

question, is a man of immense expe-

rience and high prestige, and it is

confidently hoped that this costly and

unmeaning war will be brought to a

speedy conclusion. Gen. Urquiza, as

ever, proving him anxiety, and using

his best exertions to arrange the squa-

bles which led to hostilities. This

Correntino war was costing the coun-

try immense outlay, and was without

any legitimate object. In the other

Argentine provinces, peace and order

are maintained, and affairs begin to

look more prosperous. Rosario is

steadily advancing, at present it

boasts of a large and thriving

population, several English, Ameri-

can, and German warehouses, and

stores, and the Revd. Mr. Carter, the

American pastor, has recently com-

menced the publication of an English

magazine, which is well edited, very

creditably got up and doubtless will

meet patronage. We mention the mat-

ter to point to the rising prospects of

Rosario. The works of the Argentine

Railroad progress apace and next year

the road will be finished to Cordova.

The English Colony at Frayle Muer-

to, has improved its prospects since

the advent to power of Mr. Sarmiento;

the farmers look to him for protection

against the Indians, and a more liberal

system of custom laws. The crops of

the Colony are represented to be in

the most promising condition, the last

year's crop has brought out several

new settlers for this rising Colony,

all for the most part men of some

capital and agricultural experience, and

in fact the national government will

but pay greater attention to the fron-

tier defences there can be little doubt

that ere long Frayle Muerito, will be

come one of the most important agri-

cultural districts in the Argentine

Republic. The new National Government

has commenced with the most econ-

omic reforms, which inspire the public

with the greatest confidence in the

President. Men of opposite parties

now admit that Señor Sarmiento, has

struck out in the right path. The

only real difficulty with which the

country has to contend is the Para-

guayan war. As yet, the Administra-

tion has taken no definite steps beyond

the assurance that the Government

is fully resolved to carry on the war;

but already it is mooted in highly in-

fluential circles that the Argentine

Government meditates allowing a cer-

tain fixed period for its further dura-

tion, after which the Government will

consider itself liberated from further

commitments and free to adopt what-

ever course it considers best for the

welfare and honor of the nation. Para-

guayan war has lasted so long that

the new line of policy would meet

with the greatest favor in this Repu-

blic, and it is generally supposed that

it will lead to the Commander-in-Chief

acting with greater energy in advan-

cing on the Paraguayans. Don Emilio

Castro has been named the new

Governor of Buenos Ayres, and this

popular gentleman has named Sr. J.

Sarmiento his Minister of Govern-

ment, and Sr. Agote his Minister of

Finance. Mr. F. B. Madero has been

named to succeed Mr. Castro as

THE STANDARD.

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SUMMARY FOR THE FORTNIGHT.

THE WAR IN THE NORTH.

The dates from the army are to the 9th inst. The rains have been so incessant that the Allied camp is one vast quagmire, and the heat at times is intense. The health of the army is not good, but the soldiers suffer more from intermittent fevers and chuco than anything else.

The 4 Ironclads which forced the Angostura bitter pass are now before another pass called San Antonio, 3 leagues below Asuncion, where the Paraguayans have batteries placed. Baron Pasage is on board one of these vessels, which communicate with the shore. The Baron has learned from some Paraguayans that Lopez makes his stand at Villita, and that there are troops in Asuncion. All the foreign gunboats are below Angostura. The Paraguayan steamer Pirabebe, with a flag of truce, dropped down the river the other day with the French Consul on board, who went at once to the Decid.

Mr. Gould, it is said, has been invited to visit the Paraguayan camp by Lopez, but he has not gone. Gaspar Campos is alive and well cared for in the Paraguayan camp.

It was generally said at headquarters that as the present encampment is inconvenient, and the troops suffering immense hardships, an immediate attack will be made, but the position of Lopez is represented as extremely strong. A Paraguayan deserter has made the following statement:—

The Paraguayan army consists to-day of 53 regiments of Infantry of from 200 to 300 men each; also several cavalry regiments badly mounted. The intrenchments extend across the country from Piriquiry to the lagoon of the Ypaa, all well defended by artillery, the heaviest guns command the River Paraguay.

In Asuncion there is one regiment, No. 49, and some artillery, 10 pieces.

That Lopez holds his headquarters on the hills of Cumbariti, about one league and a half from Paraguay river, the line troops encamped along the line in such a manner that at the first notice large bodies of men can be thrown on any given point.

That the entrenchments are two yards deep and 2½ wide, and also defended by abatis.

That the army is very badly supplied and living on beef without salt; but there is no cholera, although many cases of dysentery. The chief officers of Lopez are Resquin and Caballero, all the others having been shot. Barrio's wife and the Bishop are in the prison.

That Coimbra and Combaria have been evacuated, and only 200 men on the Rio Apa frontier.

That the woods which surround the Allied forces are full of spies, who report all the movements of the Allies to Lopez.

This deserter recommends the Allies not to attempt an assault, but to try the Chaco.

That the road between Villita and Asuncion is open, and the telegraph wires working.

That a division of infantry and cavalry was despatched to watch the movements of the ironclads, which had gone up the river, to prevent the Brazilians from landing.

Sixty-eight soldiers and some thirty persons attached to the army in commercial pursuits have died of cholera, but the fine weather has improved the sanitary condition of the army, and for the last ten days there has not been a single case of cholera reported.

The dates from the army are to the 14th inst., the belligerents are in the same positions, the allies are encamped at Palma, and owing to six days continuous rains the troops have suffered the greatest hardships. The whole country around is a vast, miserable swamp, and the sentries on guard watch up to their knees in mud. The woods are filled with Paraguayans and birds of every plumage; the general aspect of the country is grand and sublime, the very worst for an enemy to enter; the most experienced officers admit that the present encampment is the worst and most difficult since the war began, things would be much worse but for the unceasing efforts of Gen. Gelly, who is wearing away fast, his friends in Buenos Ayres would hardly know him, and the terrible heat seems almost too much for his attenuated frame.

The weather, the country, the infernal mosquitoes, the awful flies, the horrid heat are all excellent allies Lopez. The peones of the commissaries have all laid up owing to the excessive heat and fatigue, many of them have died, and orders have been sent to Corrientes and Buenos Ayres to employ fresh gangs.

There are two large steamers anchored at the bank, which serve as hospitals; these are quite full, but the sick are well attended to.

Notwithstanding however the improved state of the health of the army, at all the river ports the most rigorous quarantine should be established, as the danger is imminent.

General Gelly, who kept his headquarters on board the Paven, has moved to the Amazonas, in consequence of some sickness on board the first named steamer.

All seem to agree that the army cannot remain much longer where it is. A move must be made, but where or how, that's the question.

The Italian gunboat Arditia has anchored off Villita, and the commander, visiting himself of the invitation, visited the Paraguayan Camp and dined with Lopez, who received him with the greatest attention and hospitality.

The commander, on his return, gave a most favourable account of his trip, that the military executions at Corrientes and Berge were both alive and well, and that all the Italians in Paraguay are well cared for and comfortable.

This officer further states that Villita is well fortified, and the Paraguayan army well supplied with everything. He saw roaming on one of the hills 1500 head of fat cattle, and that in fact the only thing the enemy is short of is wine and English cotton goods—that the Paraguayans manufacture their own paper and calico from the cactus—and that in short the Paraguayans want for little—are in good spirits, and fully resolved to carry on the war to the end of the chapter.

When the Arditia returned the Decid went up, and remains there still, the commander having gone to Lopez's camp.

The steamers to-day are loading troops for the Gran Chaco. There is an immense stir at headquarters. It appears that Caxias has at last determined to send some of his troops up by a short cut, and some of the ironclads are under orders to go up the river and pass Villita. One of the ironclads has suffered severely in running by Villita, in her funnel, the balls struck the hull plates repeatedly, but did not penetrate, and one of the pilots of the ship states that there is no difficulty whatever in passing Villita. The Chaco banks above Villita are held by Paraguayan troops, and some Brazilians who incautiously went ashore the other day, had a very narrow escape, as a large body of troops emerged from the woods, and opened a terrible fire upon the unfortunate marines. Five steamers have been for the last days busily occupied ferrying the troops across to the Chaco shore. The last steamer took over the artillery. The Chaco division will number about 10,000 men, they will advance on Asuncion.

The soldiers and officers have all attentively read the Washburn correspondence.

A cavalry picket of about 100 men has just returned from a raiding excursion, and report no Paraguayans for leagues and leagues around, and the country completely deserted.

The Chaco division will be under the command of Rivas, and already it is rumored that the Argentine division of the Allies Lopez mediated falling back on Ciera Leon, but this is a mere rumor. Gen. Rivas' family is in Corrientes at present.

Gregorio Lopez, a Guardia Nacional of the Buenos Ayres division, was shot on the 12th by order of court martial, having killed his sergeant.

In the providencia department there is ever immense hurry flurry, and the army contractors find it difficult to keep up with the requirements. The cattle have to be driven across the country from the Paso de la Patria at great risk and expense, but the heat is too great to send up beef by steamer. Each step the Allies make enhances the difficulty, and there can be no doubt but that for the Allies any would have come back as it is.

The inland streams are deep rivers, and the campaign seems as far off from a termination as ever.

It is more than probable when Rivas advances along the Chaco and occupies Asuncion, then the present position of Lopez will be untenable. Coal has fallen from eighty patacons per ton to forty-two patacons. One or two Italian settlers have amassed a small fortune; they have sold out, and gone down to Buenos Ayres or Montevideo. But, such business is extremely precarious, and for the one who has made money, there are thousands irretrievably ruined. Last week some settlers went to their long home, their estate was rather summarily wound up; but war is war, and society knows few bounds in these out of the way parts, the only persons who seem to enjoy life being the commanders of foreign gunboats.

Thursday we were favored with the following from a highly responsible source.

Lopez is building a palace on the heights which can be seen from the river below the Angostura pass. The river at its narrowest point is defended by a strong earthwork mounting 21 sixty-eight pounders, which completely commands the narrows, and threatens to become a more serious obstruction than the far famed Humaita, the Stabopol of the South.

The left of the Paraguayan line rests upon the impassable morass, covering many square leagues.

The right is supported by the river batteries, whilst the headquarters where Lopez commands is in the rear.

It is reported that Field Marshal Marques de Caxias, Commander-in-Chief, 'ad interim' of all the allied forces operating against the Government of Paraguay, will continue his previous tactics, turning this obstacle without attacking it; he will pass 20,000 men into the Gran Chaco, and will march along the right bank of the river by a ledge line which the guides report leads direct to the parallel of Asuncion, and thence will manoeuvre across the river.

For Asuncion, we may predict the fate of Moscow, when Field Marshal President Lopez, before being taken in-rear, will have no course left but to retire upon Piribebi at this point the mountainous portion of the Republic commences, whilst the eastern portion of the river line is defended by the enormous lagoon of Aguara-Catu, of vast dimensions, one of the largest in Paraguay; this immense waste has ever been regarded by the Paraguayan with reverential superstition, and the waters in its banks believe that upon the drowning of a man, the water in its waters the salvation of the country depends. We may at all events predict that if Lopez premeditates a guerrilla warfare, here it will commence where the natural fate of the country and popular superstition may be regarded as his best allies.

The Paraguayans say that as yet no boat ever crossed that mystic lake, and the various stories we hear of spirit waters reminds us of the famed Glendalough around whose placid margin poetic genius has thrown the amaranthine garland of immortal song.

By that lake whose gloomy shores Allies never paddled o'er.

It is also reported that Viscount de Inhamma, a lieutenant of Lord Cochran, determining like his great admiral to be ever in the front, exposed his ship. We believe the wooden ship Belmont took a fire of the redoubtable 68-pounder battery; that after being bulled and otherwise maltreated, he found it necessary to give up the unequal combat. The battery has a gun for every ship, and sundry to spare. The pass is narrow, and at times has been known to be from four to five feet of water. At present it holds sufficient for the largest Brazilian ironclad to pass. From Angostura to Asuncion by the river, the distance does not exceed seven leagues, and it is all smooth steaming. Below Asuncion we believe there is but one battery, reported to mount several small and one large gun, and facing this is the artificial granite island, which was begun in the year 1864, and we are unaware if yet finished.

The present position of the Allies is dangerous in more ways than one—they are exposed to the daily sallies of the Paraguayans—and worse still, the fatal scourge is already decimating their ranks.

On reliable authority we hear that the Brazilians have lost as many as 130 in one day, and should they persist in field operations in this season, they are likely to reach the maximum allowed during the last attack, namely 500 per diem.

THE CLOSING OF CONGRESS.

Yesterday, about noon, the neighbourhood of Congress Hall was crowded with curious gazers, collected here to witness the closing ceremony of Congress. The galleries were all full, and in the body of the house a large number of Congressmen gathered. At one o'clock President Sarmiento, accompanied by his 'edecan,' drove up in the state carriage, and, when he was occupying the chairman's seat, read the following message:—

Honorable Senators and Deputies of the National Congress, I have the honor to those your Sessions, and I am bound to say that I do so with regret, because it would have been proper that the new Administration should have had time to appreciate the public wants, and obtain from you the legislative resolutions that might satisfy them.

It does not behoove me to throw a retrospective glance over your labors, since my action extends only over the future. The progressive strides made by past Administrations are only stepping stones to our further advance; and the errors that may perhaps be imputed to them can only serve as warnings and teachings, just as those of my government will be a useful lesson for my successors.

You have voted funds, or the authorization to obtain them, in order to provide for the necessities of the war with Paraguay during your recess.

I have just decreed the mobilization of the National Guard of Corrientes, and, in conformity with the preamble of the law that authorized this measure, I am disposed to employ conscientious means to bring to a termination the disturbances in that province, confidently hoping that the means employed will respond to your expectations and mine.

I have received, meanwhile, tranquillizing news from Rioja; and I believe that I have, within the sphere of my attributions, power and means to make permanent the pacification which has just been obtained, by the opportune mediation entrusted by my predecessor to Gen. Navarro.

The frontier continues disturbed and insecure, and I will avail myself of all the resources at my disposal to organize a more efficient system of defence.

I briefly touch upon these points, because I am anxious, from this moment, to secure for their complete realization your good will, of which you have given me an unequivocal proof, by the ready despatch of the measures which I have had the honor of laying before you.

It is necessary to cure, in the interior of the country, a social disease, vandalism, which, disguised under the mask of political denominations, keeps in constant alarm, four provinces, and ever causes insecurity on their high roads. I will endeavour to exercise the power that constitutions and laws confer upon all government, in order to restore tranquillity to this part of the Republic.

The country begins, perhaps, to be convinced that the Constitution does not sufficiently protect the life and the interests of the citizens, against the aggressions of evil doers; and it is necessary that a more upright interpretation of the spirit and meaning of our fundamental law should come to prove, in a practical manner, that it has been dictated specially for the purpose of realizing the essential conditions of human society—security of property and life, honor, and that share of happiness to which every human being has a legitimate right.

All civilized nations have before given themselves laws to protect these rights, which peoples receive as a legacy from the past; and the Constitution has only confirmed those laws, regulating their strict application by wise resolutions.

We must, Honorable Senators and Deputies, henceforward show these populations, so proverbial for instability, that the Congress and the Executive are but distinct manifestations of one same principle of popular sovereignty, powers evenly balanced for mutual support, in the great object of the common welfare.

In returning, Honorable Senators and Deputies, to your homes, you will again mingle with your fellow citizens, and inspire them with your own sentiments. God grant that you may be able to infuse into their minds, hope and confidence in the resources of the country and the Government, without, however, kindling chimerical ideas of exaggerated promise.

I trust that I shall be able, on your return, to report to you, from your homes, the progress that we have made, and to call upon you for such measures as the Government may need hereafter. All my efforts shall be to merit your approval, and I promise to spare no pains in this regard.

With these sentiments, I have the honor to salute you, Hon. Senators and Deputies of Congress, and declare the Sessions closed.

A VOICE FROM THE INTERIOR.

REAL STATE OF AFFAIRS.

The Interior of the Republic presents a curious contrast to all other countries in the effect of Indian neighbors. The Yankees take a sort of credit for 'improving' Indians off the face of the earth. The colonists of New Zealand get into hot water with the Home Government for their rough treatment of Indians. Something or other is going on at the Cape calculated to drive the barbarians farther back. Generally it is looked upon as an axiom that Indians disappear before whitemen and civilisation—either they are exterminated or assimilated into the civilised body. Are we to deduce logically either that the Argentine Nation are not white men, or that they cannot be classed in the ranks of civilisation?

Contrary to all other rule, they meet the Indian to associate with him, assume his habits, and are fast succeeding in driving their countrymen from the interior. Indians seldom or never come alone in their invasions, but are accompanied by Gauchos (who are turned Christians), whereas Gauchos frequently act alone for their own sole account.

The last 'mensageria' from Villanueva was stopped on the Alto Grande, six leagues east of San Luis (the same place as before—a favorite spot, it appears), by about a dozen Gauchos armed with swords and guns. From the distance of about a cuadra they called upon the conductor (Ferrari) and the three passengers to surrender under pain of immediate 'degolladura.' These, however, objected, but, feigning compliance, invited the Gauchos to come on. Meanwhile, they prepared to receive them. Seeing this, the Gauchos retreated after parleying for an hour and a half. There is some consolation in seeing what cowardly stuff Gauchos are made of.

Mules have become very scarce and dear here, and animals which would hardly have fetched \$20 two years ago, are now worth \$50. This is attributed to the operations of Colorado and Libertadores during the last revolution, and of Indians and Gauchos subsequently. The number of animals swept off during the last few months, if accurately ascertained, must amount to a figure truly startling.

Consequently, freights have risen. The present rate from Mendoza to Villanueva is 10 and 12 lbs. per arroba, whereas formerly they cost more money two years ago with freights to Rosario at 4 lbs. per arroba.

Some very heavy showers have fallen here and in San Juan during the last week. The roads are very heavy, but hacendados are rubbing their hands at the prospect of plenty of grass in the camp this summer.

There has been a continuance of bad weather in the Cordillera, which is covered with snow to its base. Three posts are overdue from Chile; let us hope the poor fellows who are carrying the mails are not in the Chubas, but they must be suffering greatly, if only for cold. "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good," plenty of water is looked for this Summer for irrigation.

San Juan is just now without a Federal Court, the judge having gone to Buenos Ayres, leaving everything at a standstill until his return.

Would it not be better that the National Government, when according leave of absence to these Judges, should appoint someone to act *ad interim*?

Considering the farces that pass for law in the Provincial Courts of these provinces, and from which there is no appeal, foreigners are rather hardly treated in San Juan just now.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.

At last all difficulties appear to have been removed, procreation has had its limit, and the Municipality, in fair earnest, has taken up the proposals, so long laying on their table. The relative merits of the various schemes has yet to be discussed, and we ardently hope that a benign Providence will inspire our city-fathers with the requisite wisdom, justice, and ballast for the task. It appears that among the numerous proposals there is one which offers a most moderate expenditure, to supply the city with pure river water, taken from the Olivos; this scheme, which comes from the representative of a responsible and wealthy English firm, certainly merits preference, for since the Saladero establishment on the Palermo Road has been started, it is obvious that the water supplied by the Coghlan Works, will be unfit to drink, and only serviceable for street or municipal purposes. As yet we have not seen the particulars of this Olivos water supply scheme, which, we understand, has been presented by no less a personage than a member of the Board of Health, but if the terms are equally favorable as the others, the water is certainly better.

We must do the present Municipal board the justice to say that the members seem at last sincere in their efforts to supply the city with water and sewerage; and the less time they lose in discussing the project the better.

'Good water and cheap sewage' is the motto of the Board, and the discussion of the project. Whatever is done should be done quickly.

We purpose, to-morrow, giving our readers a short sketch of the various proposals. Mr. Robertson's is generally regarded with much favor, as being better than all the others sent in, but this new scheme to supply the city with water from Olivos, seems to be an improved scheme, as the river water in the neighborhood of the Gas house and Recoleta is only drinkable when the Palermo Saladero stops working, and the current is strong; a strong south-easterly wind for a few hours impregnates the Recoleta water with all the filth from the Boca, and refuse from the city. If at all practicable, the water supply should come from Los Olivos, or even a point more remote, and it is desirable that, as we are now about to decide the matter finally, the best and cleanest water should be obtained.

LATEST FROM ROSARIO.

ROSARIO, Sept. 20, 1868.

The brick-and-mortar fever still rages here with unabated violence; as yet it has not taken a theatrical turn, although three schemes for such buildings are on the tapis, each proceeding from men of influence. Nothing can yet be said to be definitely settled.

Señores Corvalan, Gonzalez, and Navarro have schemes for theatres, in Calles Comercio and Puerto, and according to "La Nazione Italiana," in Calle Cordoba, wherein, it states, a plot of ground has been given by the "Sociedad del Progreso" of Rosario.

One large theatre for the town is enough, but it would be desirable if a concert room or hall were built, to prevent a complete monopoly, as people wishing to give a concert in this town have been prevented by the exorbitant demands made by the management of the late theatre.

It may be remembered that extensive improvements, going on at the Barraca del Progreso, were lately noticed, now an entirely new place of the kind, owned by natives and foreigners, is being enclosed by a brick wall, a little higher up the river, having a river frontage of 32 metres, an area of 1,000 yards, flanked on the other three sides by the entrance to the station, and the Calles Entre Rios and Jujuy, the whole of the arrangements of which will be very similar to the establishment of Cabal, of which a short description has been previously given.

On the 8th inst., Capt. Luigbeek of the Dutch brigantine Alberta, loading provender for Humaita in this port, mysteriously disappeared. On the evening of the day named he was known to have been on board, and gone to his cabin for the night; later in the evening his presence was required; someone went to call him, but the unfortunate man was not forthcoming, and though the vessel was searched, it was with the same result. The supposition remained that he had fallen overboard and was drowned.

On the 18th inst. this surmise received verification by the finding of the body a few leagues down the river. Whether his death was brought about by the act of another, by accident, or suicide, is unknown, and likely to remain so, though there is every hope that the affair was the result of accident, as he was not known to be in difficulties, and he was much liked by his crew. The burial took place in Rosario on the 20th inst., and thus ended the matter.

As there has been no official announcement in this town for the redemption of the Commercial Bank notes, as has been the case with the Corrientes branch, a few tradesmen in Rosario have advertised that they take the bills at par; but it is self-evident any deterioration in the value of the notes could be compensated for by increasing the prices of their goods, or a variety of deceptions could be resorted to, which would be a good advertisement, and possible gain to speculating tradesmen.

A capital postal arrangement has been lately made by which the public benefit much: all letters directed to the post office are advertised in both native papers.

In a number of small matters, it has lately been shown that the comfort of the Rosario public is being more considered than was formerly the case; how this is appreciated was exhibited on Sunday evening in the pleasing seats provided by the Municipality. Seldom has such a crowd of persons been seen in the Plaza on an ordinary occasion; after a certain time it was impossible to get a seat: the natives evidently like comfort as much as any European. The success of the thirty benches now placed in the Plaza will cause an addition to be made to the number. Besides the military band, which played on Sunday evening in the public square, the first performance of an Italian band was given on the same day in the Jardin del Recreo, a kind of lilliputian Cremona much affected here. The Italian nation is naturally so musically gifted, it is no surprise to hear good individual performance by the instrumentalists: the defect noticed was a want of unanimity in the body, which practice will rectify—this done, the music will be excellent.

A communication from Rosario seldom appears in the Standard that does not contain news of improvements or entirely new projects so far as that town is concerned. There is every probability that an Alcazar will shortly be established here, as also a new race club, cursorily referred to some weeks ago.

GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

The result of the government examination of the first year's accounts of the Great Southern Railway, has at last come before the public, in the shape of an extensive report of the Accountant, which has been published by the Government, occupying a whole supplement of the "Tribuna."

We must confess that the huge dimensions, and formidable appearance of this document, are rather terrifying, and we claim indulgence for a few days, before thoroughly reviewing the work, which, as editors of an English journal, advocates of British enterprise, and deeply interested in the welfare of this country, we are anxious to do with impartiality, and at the same time, with a proper regard for the important consequences connected with it.

We observe that, according to the usual course of proceeding in such cases, the report has been sent by the Government to the representatives of the Company, for whatever observations they may have to make on it, and, pending their reply, we much regret that it should have appeared in such an ostentatious form, as we feel satisfied that, had the Government waited, it would have had a better opportunity of forming a correct opinion on the subject, and of revising much of the objectionable character of the report.

In saying this, we cast no imputation on Mr. Cerro, the Accountant; we have no reason to doubt that he has acted up to his conscience, as he has informed us, and that he has been inexorable, like most Government auditors, and we know him also, personally, to be a most upright and unbending man, and we could not have expected anything else from him. The opinion, however, of an Accountant is limited one, and generally confined to one particular view of the subject, whereas the Government, in whom the representation of the country's interests is confided, and on whom the full responsibility rests, is called upon to take a far wider field of observation, in which many mere technical objections, must naturally become matters of secondary importance.

Moreover, in this case, it might with every reason be expected, that where such inter-experience existed in matters of railway management, and where the experiment made with the State Railway, of one identical character with that under discussion, has given such incomparably inferior results, the Government, with all the knowledge and experience it possesses of the many and almost insuperable difficulties and expenses attending the starting of a new enterprise of such magnitude in the country, owing to the delinquencies which alike surround everything, would generally be similarly situated, and in subjecting the first year's accounts of this young and promising enterprise to the order of a Government audit, they would overlook many of its minor defects, bearing in mind the immense benefits it has already conferred on the Province, which have been directly felt by the Government, the people, and the country at large; not forgetting also that whatever decision they may adopt in this case will form a precedent for the future, reflecting abroad the character of the Government and giving an estimate of the real worth of their guarantee, on the faith of which the British public have subscribed in this instance upwards of three-quarters of a million sterling.

We are pledged above all things to behave honorably to this Company, no matter what the sacrifice may be; and considering the very insignificant cost at which the advantages introduced by this Railway have been obtained, there should be no hesitation as to the manner in which the first year's expenditure should be dealt with.

We can state also with some satisfaction, as constant observers of the practical management of this line, that the G. S. R. Company deserves well of this country, and that it richly merits the reputation it has acquired, of being without a rival in its economical good working and honest administration. We feel, therefore, confident that when the matter under discussion is put to the test, the B. Ayres Government and public will not begrudge it a fair share of profit in return for the benefit they have derived from it.

We have given expression to these general views on this important subject, as a preliminary to a full and minute examination of the report, in the hope that they may afford some reassurance to our friends in England,

who cannot fail to experience some dismay, if not despair, at the tendency of this first exhibition of railway fiscalization in Buenos Ayres, which is certainly not calculated to operate favorably on our future prospects, but rather to shake that implicit confidence, which we should like to see established in the name and for the credit of the Government.

MONTEVIDEO.

October, 20th 1868.

The wreck of the French ship Bonne amie off Cape Santa Maria, has caused a most painful impression here, and thrown a gloom over the entire city. The loss of life cannot be ascertained with anything like accuracy, until the official passenger list comes to hand, but it is believed that every soul on board has perished. The total number lost is said to be over 200, but as yet we can only surmise the sad and affecting tale, for not a soul has survived to tell it.

How many hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, and bright anticipations for the future, have been for ever laid at rest, and obliterated; swept into the great ocean of Eternity, by the remorseless waves, on that awful night off the coast of Maldonado. In many a humble cottage on Biscaya's stormy shores, in many a hamlet of "La Belle France," young hearts will be wrung, bright eyes grow dim, and aged heads will bow with grief for the loved and lost, on the bleak and lonely Oriental shore.

We have not had, for a long time, so sad a catastrophe on our coasts; the particulars, brief and imperfect as yet, are as follows:—

The Bonne Amie, left Bordeaux on the 14th August, bound for Buenos Ayres, carrying over 200 passengers, and miscellaneous cargo. The voyage was a fair, average one, as she arrived off the mouth of the Plata in about two months; ascending the river, making for Montevideo (to which place she is believed to have had large consignments), she was caught by the pampers which prevailed along the coast last week, driven on shore off Cape Santa Maria; and, amidst the rocks and quicksands of that inhospitable shore, La Bonne Amie went to pieces, and every one of her living freight found a grave.

Several corpses have been picked up in the locality, many of them in an advanced stage of decomposition; amongst others that of a young and handsome woman, with a child tightly clasped to her breast, the ruling passion, a mother's love, strong in death. Pieces of wreck—masts, sails, spars, casks of wine and brandy, clothes—all the sad paraphernalia of death and disaster by sea have been, and are daily being found, in abundance.

Many of the passengers are said to have been Basques, and their premature and awful death will be a loss to the country which they were seeking to adopt, for, amongst the motley crowds of immigrants that reach our shores, none are more industrious, hard-working, and successful than the Basques.

The Gastronomical Club, to which I referred in my last, had their first "Dejeuner à la fourchette" on Sunday. One enthusiastic member proposed that the President of the Republic should be named 'Patron of the Club,' this motion, after considerable, but not very lucid discussion, was declared lost, on the ground that should the first Magistrate take it into his head to come often, or accompanied by too numerous a retinue, the treasurer would soon be compelled to cry "hold, enough!" I am forced to infer from this little episode, that 'gammatizing,' per se, has not a very refining influence on either the heart or manners of its votaries.

Thirteen prisoners escaped from the Union on Saturday night, two only of whom have been recaptured, and one of them was found to have broken his leg in escaping. The frequent escapes from prison here reflect the utmost discredit on the Police, or whoever has charge of the public prisons.

The inauguration of the "Ferro Carril Central del Uruguay" will shortly take place; the intermediate stations are almost finished, and the locomotives, carriages, &c. all ready.

The ball at Mrs. Viana's on Saturday night was splendid, and dancing was kept up till the 'small hours.'

The new 'Corps de Ballet' make their first appearance on Wednesday next. Great things are expected from them in the way of 'tours de force' on the 'light fantastic toe.'

The Grand Prize of \$30,000 m., in the last Lottery here, fell to the lot of four residents of Gualeguaychú.

Gottschalk's grand Concert will certainly take place on Friday next.

Business on Change has been a little more active to-day.

Weather looks threatening.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The promise contained in Sr. Sarmiento's closing message to Congress that his Government would give a preferential attention to the important question of securing the frontier from the desolating invasions of the Indians has not been given in vain, and we see with real pleasure that the Minister of War has not lost a moment in taking action in the matter. By an official note addressed to the Governor of Santa Fé he informs him that the Government is organizing troops of service (destiny) exclusively to the defence of the frontier, and meanwhile requests him to place at the disposal of Colonel Benavidez, two hundred National Guards to be provisionally employed in said service, and which are to be relieved every six months.

Sheep will be in better condition this season (Nov. and Dec.) than they have been for many years past. Fat capones and sheep find ready sale at \$34 to \$40 in the camp. Prices after shearing will be \$24 to \$27. We know of one instance in Lujan where a 'caponero' parted 600 out of a flock at \$35, and offered \$25 for the entire flock after shearing.

The National Government has subscribed a thousand patacons to the Relief Fund, for the sufferers of the Pacific earthquake.

The National Senate before its prorogation, sanctioned the appointment of Don Manuel R. Garcia as Argentine Minister to the United States.

We have seen a letter from a trust worthy party, at present domiciled in Humaita, dated the 3d inst. He says "Cholera has made its appearance here, but thank Heaven it has already taken its passport. There is not much to communicate about the war,

